



**Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Fire Update  
Deer Park, Texas  
April 14, 2019 0000 – April 14, 2019 1159**

**Incident Management Objectives:**

**Objective 1:** Ensure the health and safety of the public and response personnel.

**Objective 2:** Establish an incident management structure and processes employing the Incident Command System to enable effective overall management of the event with deployment of resources (staff and equipment) in a rapid, focused and well-coordinated manner.

**Objective 3:** Encourage a collaborative federalism approach, where Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments interact cooperatively and collectively to solve common problems.

**Objective 4:** Take actions to assess the on-site and off-site impacts during the emergency response phase of this incident. Provide this information to state and local authorities to assist them in their decision to protect the local citizens.

**Objective 5:** Conduct activities to prevent off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

**Objective 6:** Respond to, mitigate and recovery off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

**Objective 7:** Maintain open communication with Regional management

**Incident Overview:**

On March 17, 2019, an above ground storage tank containing Naphtha, caught fire at the Intercontinental Terminal Company (ITC), LLC facility in Deer Park Texas. The ITC facility consists of 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks containing petroleum products including Naphtha, Xylene, Toluene, Gasoline Blendstock, and Base Oil. Eleven of the 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks on site were involved in the fire, resulting in the release of contaminants into the atmosphere, as well discharging the contents of the tanks to drainage pathways. Firefighting water and foam potentially containing petroleum products were released from an outfall due to accumulation of water from firefighting efforts. Various firefighting organizations assisted in putting out the fire utilizing a variety of firefighting foams.

A partial breach of the tank farm containment wall on the northeast side near Tank 80-7 occurred at approximately 12:00 pm on March 22, 2019, to the ditched area and into Tucker Bayou. Additional boom was placed along the ditch leading to Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou (Houston Ship Channel). The Responsible Party's contractor has rebuilt the containment wall using clay material.

At approximately 3:40 pm on March 22, 2019, three tanks reignited. The fire spread from the containment area through the breached containment wall into the ditch along Tidal Road. Foam was applied to the tanks and the ditch to extinguish the fire.

As a result of the fire, nine of the fifteen oil tanks had been burned and collapsed. One of the tanks had been burned and damaged, but not completely collapsed. Two tanks had become overheated and smoked but were not significantly damaged. Four of the tanks had smoked but did not burn.

During and after the fire and the breach of the secondary containment, several readings of benzene above 1.0 parts per million (ppm) were detected (highest was 16.5 near National Tank Services) by the various entities conducting air monitoring through the afternoon and night. These readings were located along the ship channel.

A vessel decontamination plan was approved on March 27, 2019. The plan established procedures for decontamination of large and small vessels. Also, the plan describes how the decontamination team will utilize resources that include barge boats equipped with a hot water pressure washer, support boats for assessment team members, containment boom and absorbent sweep, rags, absorbent pads, cleaning agents, personal protective equipment (PPE), boat operators, and technicians.

On March 31, 2019, EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) posted the Story Map Resource Interactive tool for the ITC incident. The Story Map provides easy access for ITC fire data.

## **Executive Overview:**

### **Land Operations:**

- On April 14, 2019, EPA and ITC conducted a visual assessment and collected photographic documentation of the impacted tank farm.
- On April 14, 2019, ITC conducted operations at the tank farm:
  - Tanks 80-1, 80-2, 80-3, 80-4, 80-6, 80-9 and 80-12 are reported as cleaned with no further action planned. Tank 80-15 was reported cleaned but degassing continued as precaution.
  - Cleaning continued for tanks 80-5, 80-10, and 80-11.
  - Continued degassing for tanks 80-7, 80-13, and 80-14.
  - Tank 80-8 is scheduled for draining on April 15, 2019.
- At 1:00 am on April 15, 2019, ITC reported Vopak sheltered in place due to a 2.0 ppm benzene exceedance. ITC discontinued tank cleaning operations and ITC monitored the area. At 3:00 am the shelter in place was lifted and the tank cleaning was restarted.

### **Water Operations:**

- On April 14, 2019, water operations resumed and flushing of Tucker Bayou continued. Carpenter Bayou was assessed for flushing by Operations Section.
- EPA conducted surface water sampling on April 14, 2019 at 10 sample locations. The surface water samples were collected along Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River and will be analyzed for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), chemical oxygen demand (COD), and oil & grease. The results from the sampling event were compared to the TCEQ Surface Water Quality Standards (WQS), or to TCEQ Texas Risk Reduction Program surface water protective concentration levels (PCLs), if a WQS was not available for a chemical.

- The USCG Captain of the Port continues the controlled open for the Ship Channel, with traffic during the daytime only. Decontamination vessels are being positioned to help ships that may have residue on the hulls.
- As of Sunday, April 14, 2019:
  - 160,840 feet of boom deployed
  - 141,308 bbl of product/water recovered from water operations
  - 220,759 bbl of product/water recovered from tank farm

| Total Vessels as of April 13, 2019 |        |                                 |          |               |
|------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------|
| Work Boats                         | Barges | Small Capacity Skimming Vessels | Skimmers | Total Vessels |
| 95                                 | 101    | 23                              | 70       | <b>289</b>    |

### **Community Air Monitoring:**

- Several entities including TCEQ, EPA, and ITC continue to conduct air monitoring around the tank farm, in adjoining industrial areas, and communities downwind from the facility.
- EPA conducted handheld air monitoring on April 14, 2019, from 00:00 to 23:59 at 76 locations in the surrounding communities. Results were reported above the detection limit at one location for total VOCs at the east side of the ITC Dock. EPA will continue to conduct additional air monitoring and deploy the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) if VOCs are detected.
- The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values on April 14, 2019. ASPECT has conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the ITC in Deer Park, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of TCEQ short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs). No chemicals were detected by the ASPECT.
- EPA conducted air sampling using the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) on April 14, 2019. The TAGA analyzed the air samples for benzene, toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results were compared to the TCEQ short-term AMCVs and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCV for toluene. The TAGA air sampling results found exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for benzene (0.18 ppm) and xylene (1.7 ppm) just north of the ITC facility. These results have been shared with unified command and local officials.
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### **Coordination with State Agencies:**

On March 17, 2019, in response to a tank fire at the ITC, federal, state and local agencies joined ITC in a Unified Command. Multiple agencies including the United States Coast Guard, the TCEQ, and Harris County Pollution Control Services supported the response effort.

**EPA Resources:**

| Personnel         | EPA R6 Dallas | ITC Deer Park | Total     |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| EPA Region 6      | 11            | 6             | 17        |
| EPA Non-Region 6  | 0             | 2             | 2         |
| START             | 1             | 17            | 18        |
| Other Contractors | 0             | 8             | 8         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>12</b>     | <b>33</b>     | <b>45</b> |

## Additional Information: Air Monitoring and Water Sampling locations.

